



2007 Media Guide

www.avila.edu/athletics

ON THE AIR You can listen to Eagles football on the Avila Web site as veteran sports announcers Bob Rennison and Dick Krawczyk give you the play-by-play during home and away games. You can listen to the games at www.avila.edu/athletics.

Winning three games in a season does not seem like a great accomplishment. For the Avila Eagles those three wins were the most wins per season in three years. Add to that fact that in the final two contests of 2006, Avila lost both by a total of eight points. Couple that with a rousing second half comeback, one that fell short early in the year vs. Evangel, the Avila Eagles have the attention of everyone in the Heart of America Athletic Conference. The question for 2007 is this: can Coach Bruce Young's troops take it to the next level in the conference?

The 2007 Eagles squad is blessed with several returning players. Four of those returning players received All-Conference honors in 2006. Nick Saviano (O'Hara) received 2nd team All-HAAC honors as defensive back and led the HAAC in total tackles. Doug Wendel (Blue Valley West) received 2nd team All-HAAC honors as wide receiver and was second in the HAAC in total catches. Landon Ellis (Cal State-Sacramento) received 3rd team All-HAAC honors as defensive end and was in the upper division in the HAAC QB pressures. Billy Firn (Grand Rapids (MI) CC) received honorable mention honors as quarterback and was one of the leaders in passing yardage and total yards in the HAAC.

Head Football Coach Bruce Young returns for his third year leading the Eagles. Coach Young is full of excitement as he looks at the 2007 roster, which has several returning veteran players. The Eagles return ten starters on offense and seven on defense. Coach Young feels the 2007 team is a good mix of veteran players and newcomers. The 2007 recruiting class has several newcomers that could be in a position to help immediately.

The coaching staff has had some changes. Dan Scheible is back, but now has the added responsibilities of assistant head coach. Ivan Pearl, who has been on the staff at Avila for seven years, has taken on the duties of co-defensive coordinator. The other half of the defensive brain trust is Marty Steward, who began his duties at Avila in January of 2007 and had spring ball to become acquainted with the Eagles. New coaches for

2007 include Tanner Purdum and Brad Gaines. Coach Purdum will coach the quarterbacks and work with the special teams. Coach Young recruited Purdum while at Baker University and now reunites with him, this time as a coach. Coach Gaines will tutor the running backs and coordinate the Eagles special teams. Gaines and Young go way back as high school coaching rivals, while each was at Orrick and Norborne in the 70s. Now they will roam the sidelines together, as Coach Gaines takes his first step into the college ranks at Avila.

Coach Young has developed a total program in his three years as the leader of the football program at Avila. Nothing displays that total commitment more than the success the Eagles have had in the classroom. The spring semester saw the Avila football team have its best semester ever to date. The seven seniors on the Eagle football team all walked at graduation on May 12th including Justin Foster, Michael Pearl, Jacob Pinson, Brian Poterbin, Marco Walker, Brandon Wilkes and Gary Porter, who graduated early in December. The remainder of the nearly 50 returning players for the spring 2007 semester boasted 25 players with over a 3.0 GPA. Three players, Brandon Holiwell, Brian Kelly and Doug Wendel earned a perfect 4.0 GPA for the semester. The total team GPA for the spring semester shot to 3.02 and is the highest ever in history for Avila football. Coach Young has challenged the 2007 squad to set a new record for NAIA Academic All-Americans in the upcoming year. Coach Young was very pleased with the news. "We are developing the football program with good student-athletes who will have success here at Avila and after their graduation. First, you have to recruit good student-athletes, and then you have to track them academically. Our team study hall program, which helps with time management and study skills has paid great dividends."

The Eagles are poised and prepared for the challenging 2007 schedule. The always tough Heart of America Conference schedule is in place plus a non-conference tilt with Haskell Indian Nations University. The Eagles will provide an exciting brand of football in 2007 and they expect big dividends from their efforts.

NATIONAL COVERAGE NAIAfootball.net is where to go for national coverage exclusive to NAIA football all around the country. This site gives pre-season information, in-season updates, scores and final stats.

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OFFENSE

OUTLOOK In 2007 the Eagles will base out of multiple sets and formations. It is imperative that the offense develop consistency with the ability to move and control the football.

QUARTERBACK Billy Firm (Grand Rapids CC, Mich.) returns for his senior season. Billy is a proven player and leader for the Eagles. He started ten games in 2006. Jon Licktieg (Raytown South) will provide backup help. Jon started one game in 2006. Nick Donnelly (Wentworth Military, Mo.) and Casey MacNamara (O'Hara) are returning squad members. Newcomers are Trevor Armstrong (Crest Ridge), Derick Barnes (Kearney) and Justin McCown (Hilmar High, Calif.).

WIDE RECEIVER The wide receiver position has many returning players. Doug Wendel (Blue Valley West), Johnny Serfozo (Glendale CC, Calif.), Chadd Rivera (Gulf Coast High, Fla.) and David Sloan (Marshfield) all have game experience. Returning squad members include Jake Reffitt (Crest Ridge) and Prince Mikado (Park Hill). Incoming new players include Jeremy Davila (Osceola), Anthony Kelly (Chaffey CC, Calif.), Tim Solberg (Lee's Summit North) and Trevor Lewis (Neosho).

RUNNING BACK/FULLBACK Several players have been added to the position group. Brian Witt (Jupiter High, Fla.), Lawrence Subelka (Louisiana-Monroe) and Brandon Holliwell (Santa Anna CC, Calif.) return with experience carrying the ball. Luke Young (Archie), who had a great spring campaign and Heath Baker (Nevada) are returning squad members. Added to the group through recruiting are Andrew Sudduth (Mill Valley) and Roderick Coby (Hutchinson CC, Kan.). Bill Voorhis (Republic) who moved to fullback from linebacker in the spring and emerged as the leader. Nelson Lemus (Northeast), Armond Neal (Dodge City CC, Kan.) and Danny LeGrande (Cooper City High, Fla.) joined the squad as newcomers.

TIGHT END Matt Rodenberg (Kearney) earned the top tight end spot during the spring. Newcomer Tim Mincher (Ray-Pec/Pittsburg State, Kan.), who may also contribute in the offensive line will line up at the other tight end spot. Depth will come from players at other positions.

OFFENSIVE LINE Returning starters Will Harrahill (Glendale CC, Calif.), Abijah Sanders (William Chrisman), Brian Serna (Mount Sac CC, Calif.), James Timmons (NW Oklahoma State) and Ryan Vaughn (Camdenton) are back with game experience. Tim Townsend (Odessa) and Ryan Brenner (Camdenton) return as squad members. Newcomers include Matt Hoskins (Shawnee Mission West), Zach Johnson (Kearney), and Pete Papageorges (Los Alamitos High, Calif.).

DEFENSIVE LINE Landon Ellis (Cal State-Sacramento), Kyle Dilkes (NW Oklahoma State), Jonathon Decker (Hickman Mills), Brandon Kipp (Gulf Coast High, Fla.), and Stephen Johnson (Kearney) return with playing experience. Squad Members are Charles Misher (Hickman Mills) and Kevin Hicks (Chaffey CC, Calif.). John Skoch (St. Cecilia High, Neb.) joins the squad as a member of the 2007 recruiting class.

LINEBACKER Returning players with game and starting experience include Nathan Aguilera (West Valley High, Ark.) and Nick Ward-Bopp (Crawfordsville High, Ind.). Squad members Derick Barker (Odessa), Jesse Richardson (Cass-Midway) both moved up the depth chart this past spring. Newcomers include Kyle Barnum (Carl Junction) and Cody Conard (Lee's Summit).

SECONDARY Nick Saviano (O'Hara) returns as the leader of this position group. Returning players with game experience include Matt Varner (Liberty High, Colo.), Cody Langston (Carl Junction), Jake Witt (Camdenton), Sean Kelly (Air Force Academy, Colo.), Brian Kelly (Pine Creek High, Colo.), Gavin Fletchall (Nixa), Spencer Davis (St. Pius), Victor Gray (Nixa), AJ Hamel (Shawnee Mission NW), Kyle Behringer (Archie), Toby Cashell (Osceola), and CJ Moore (Lee's Summit West). New recruits are Justin Staley (Seneca), Malachi Sanders (William Chrisman), John Sanders (Dodge City CC, Kan.), Mike Pepple (O'Hara), Sean Davis (Heartland Academy), Sketter Brittain (Grandview), Nathan Graham (Lee's Summit), Ryan Hardwick (Nixa) and Stephen Hinkle (St. Pius).

SPECIAL TEAMS

OUTLOOK In 2007 the Eagles will have many returning players with special teams experience. Plus, the addition of new players with the abilities suited to special teams play will add competition and depth to all positions.

KICKER Andrew Korth (Grandview) was a valuable recruit. His ability with PAT's, field goals and kickoffs will be a great addition to the team. Jake Zinn (Pleasant Hill) will provide depth.

PUNTER David Sloan (Marshfield) returns and was among the HAAC leaders in total punting for most of the 2006 campaign. Several incoming freshmen punted for their high school teams.

COVERAGE TEAMS The list of players with kick coverage experience is long. The competition will be keen for playing time. Several members of the recruiting class will also be in the mix as the staff has a chance to evaluate their abilities.

RETURNERS Brian Witt (Jupiter High, Fla.) returns as the leading kick-off returner. Doug Wendel (Blue Valley West) is the leading candidate at returning punts. Competition will come from several returning Eagles plus some new recruits have the abilities to return punts and kick-offs.

SNAPPERS Matt Varner (Liberty High, Colo.) snapped every placement and punt in 2007. Other members of the squad with the ability to snap include Cody Langston (Carl Junction), Jonathon Decker (Hickman Mills), Derick Barker (Odessa) and newcomer Cody Conard (Lee's Summit).

DEFENSE

OUTLOOK The 2007 Eagles defense will have a new look. The players had spring ball and the summer to adjust to Coach Pearl and Coach Steward's new schemes.



2007 TEAM ROSTER

Name	YR	Pos	HT	WT	Hometown/School
Aguilera, Nathan	SR	LB	6'	220	West Valley High, Ark.
Armstrong, Trevor	FR	QB	5'9	170	Crest Ridge High, Mo.
Baker, Heath	FR	RB	5'7	175	Nevada High, Mo.
Barker, Derick	FR	LB	6'0	210	Odessa High, Mo.
Barnes, Derick	FR	QB	6'0	190	Kearney High, Mo.
Barnum, Kyle	FR	LB	5'11	195	Carl Junction High, Mo.
Behringer, Kyle	FR	DB	5'8	170	Archie High, Mo.
Brenner, Ryan	JR	OL	6'2	240	Camdenton High, Mo.
Skeeter Brittain	FR	DB	5'10	185	Grandview High, Mo.
Cashell, Toby	JR	DB	5'11	175	Osceola High, Mo.
Canter, Lance	FR	FB	5'9	220	Kennedale High, Texas
Coby, Rodrick	FR	RB	5'10	210	Hutchinson CC, Kan.
Conard, Cody	SO	LB	5'11	210	Northwest Missouri State, Mo.
Davila, Jeremy	FR	WR	5'9	170	Osceola High, Mo.
Davis, Sean	FR	DB	5'9	160	Heartland Academy, Mo.
Davis, Spencer	JR	DB	6'1	190	St. Pius High, Mo.
Decker, Jonathon	SO	DL	6'	270	Hickman Mills High, Mo.
Dilkes, Kyle	SO	DL	6'2	280	Northwest Oklahoma State, Okla.
Donnelly, Nick	FR	QB	6'0	190	Wentworth Military, Mo.
Edwards, Andre	SO	DB	6'1	180	Glendale High, Mo.
Ellis, Landon	SR	DL	6'2	255	Cal State-Sacramento, Calif.
Firn, Billy	SR	QB	6'1	195	Grand Rapids CC, Mich.
Fletchall, Gavin	JR	LB	6'	210	Nixa High, Mo.
Graham, Nathan	FR	DB	5'10	180	Lee's Summit High, Mo.
Gray, Victor	JR	DB	6'	180	Nixa High, Mo.
Hamel, AJ	JR	DB	6'	190	Shawnee Mission NW High, Kan.
Hardwick, Ryan	FR	DB	5'10	185	Nixa High, Mo.
Harrahill, Will	SR	OL	5'11	265	Glendale CC, Calif.
Hicks, Kevin	JR	DL	6'3	270	Chaffey CC, Calif.
Hinkle, Stephen	FR	DB	5'9	175	St. Pius High, Mo.
Holiwell, Brandon	SR	RB	5'9	190	Santa Anna CC, Calif.
Hoskins, Matt	FR	OL	6'2	270	SW West High, Kan.
Johnson, Stephen	SO	DL	6'0	220	Kearney High, Mo.
Johnson, Zach	FR	OL	6'3	275	Kearney High, Mo.
Kelly, Anthony	JR	WR	6'1	170	Chaffey CC, Calif.
Kelly, Brian	JR	DB	6'	180	Pine Creek High, Colo.
Kelly, Sean	JR	DB	6'	175	Air Force Academy, Colo.
Kipp, Brandon	JR	DL	6'2	290	Gulf Coast High, Fla.
Korth, Andrew	FR	K	6'2	200	Grandview High, Mo.
Krog, Trevor	SR	OL	5'11	250	Marshfield High, Mo.
Langston, Cody	SO	LB	5'10	205	Carl Junction High, Mo.
Legrande, Danny	FR	FB	5'10	210	Cooper City High, Fla.
Lemus, Nelson	FR	FB	5'10	200	Northeast High, Mo.
Lewis, Trevor	FR	WR	5'11	190	Neosho High, Mo.
Licktieg, Jonathon	JR	QB	5'11	185	Raytown South High, Mo.
MacNamara, Casey	FR	QB	5'11	185	O'Hara High, Mo.
McCown, Justin	FR	QB	6'0	190	Hilmar High, Calif.
Mikado, Prince	SO	WR	5'11	180	Park Hill High, Mo.
Mincher, Tim	SO	TE	6'2	230	Ray-Pec High, Mo.
Misher, Charles	JR	DL	6'1	250	Hickman Mills High, Mo.
Moore, CJ	SO	DB	5'11	180	Lee's Summit West High, Mo.
Neal, Armond	FR	FB	5'9	200	Dodge City CC, Kan.

Name	YR	Pos	HT	WT	Hometown/School
Papageorges, Pete	FR	OL	6'3	270	Los Alamitos High, Calif.
Pepple, Mike	FR	DB	5'10	200	O'Hara High, Mo.
Reffitt, Jake	FR	WR	5'10	170	Crest Ridge High, Mo.
Richardson, Jesse	FR	LB	6'0	220	Cass-Midway High, Mo.
Rivera, Chadd	JR	WR	5'11	200	Gulf Coast High, Fla.
Rodenberg, Matt	SO	TE	6'3	250	Kearney High, Mo.
Sanders, Abijah	SR	OL	6'3	290	William Chrisman High, Mo.
Sanders, John	FR	DB	5'10	185	Dodge City CC, Kan.
Sanders, Malachi	FR	DB	5'9	180	William Chrisman High, Mo.
Saviano, Nick	SR	DB	5'10	185	O'Hara High, Mo.
Serfozo, Johnny	SR	WR	5'9	170	Glendale CC, Calif.
Serna, Brian	SR	OL	6'3	285	Mount Sac CC, Calif.
Skoch, John	FR	DL	6'3	255	St. Cecilia High, Neb.
Sloan, David	SO	P/WR	6'1	180	Marshfield High, Mo.
Solberg, Tim	FR	WR	5'10	185	Lee's Summit N High, Mo.
Staley, Justin	FR	DB	5'10	200	Seneca High, Mo.
Subelka, Laurence	SR	RB	5'10	220	Louisiana-Monroe, La.
Sudduth, Andrew	JR	RB	5'11	220	Johnson County CC, Kan.
Timmons, James	SO	OL	6'2	280	Northwest Oklahoma State, Okla.
Townsend, Tim	FR	OL	6'1	250	Odessa High, Mo.
Varner, Matt	SR	DB	5'11	200	Liberty High, Colo.
Vaughn, Ryan	SR	OL	6'0	280	Camdenton High, Mo.
Voorhis, Bill	SR	FB	5'11	230	Republic High, Mo.
Ward-Bopp, Nick	JR	LB	5'11	220	Crawfordsville High, Ind.
Wendel, Doug	JR	WR	6'1	185	Blue Valley West High, Kan.
Witt, Brian	JR	RB	5'9	175	Jupiter High, Fla.
Witt, Jake	JR	DB	6'1	200	Camdenton High, Mo.
Young, Luke	FR	RB	5'9	175	Archie High, Mo.
Zinn, Jake	FR	K	5'9	170	Pleasant Hill High, Mo.

2007 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	Location
9/1	Culver-Stockton College*	1:00 pm	Canton, Mo.
9/8	Lindenwood University*	1:00 pm	Kansas City, Mo.
9/15	Benedictine College*	2:00 pm	Atchison, Kan.
9/22	Graceland University*	6:00 pm	Kansas City, Mo.
9/29	William Jewell College*	1:00 pm	Liberty, Mo.
10/6	Evangel University* (2007 Homecoming)	1:00 pm	Kansas City, Mo.
10/13	Central Methodist University*	1:00 pm	Fayette, Mo.
10/20	Missouri Valley College*	1:00 pm	Kansas City, Mo.
10/27	Mid-America Nazarene Univ.*	1:00 pm	Olathe, Kan.
11/3	Haskell University	1:00 pm	Kansas City, Mo.
11/10	Baker University*	1:00 pm	Kansas City, Mo.

All home games are played at Rockhurst High School and are noted in BOLD text.

COACHES

BRUCE YOUNG enters his third year as head coach at Avila. A member of the Missouri High School Coaches Hall of Fame, Young enjoyed successes at Norborne, Marceline, and Ray-Pec high schools and had been an assistant coach at the collegiate level for five seasons before taking the helm at Avila. Young is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University. Coach Young and his wife, Dwyla, have three daughters, Julie, Lindy and Kara.

DAN SCHEIBLE begins his second year as offensive run game coordinator and strength and conditioning coordinator. Coach Scheible is a graduate of Norborne High School, Mo., and Northwest Missouri State University. Coach Scheible played center for the Bearcats and was co-captain his senior year. Dan's previous coaching stops have been at Northwest Missouri, Cameron University, Okla., Missouri Southern (two stints), Galena High, Kan., Jasper High, Mo., and Joplin High, Mo.

IVAN PEARL enters his eighth season at Avila. Coach Pearl was elevated to Co-Defensive Coordinator in January of 2007. Coach Pearl will work with the defensive secondary. Coach Pearl played college football at Kansas State University and then spent two seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs.

MARTY STEWARD began his duties as Co-Defensive Coordinator and defensive line coach at Avila in January of 2007. Coach Steward played college football at Tennessee Tech University.

Marty's previous coaching stops have been at Tennessee Tech, Langston University, Okla. (two stints), Trinity Valley CC, Texas, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Grambling State University.

TOM IRVIN enters his second year at Avila. Tom coached at William Jewell for four years prior to his time at Avila. Tom played college football at Central Missouri and has been a successful head high school coach at Ruskin and Raytown High Schools.

KENNAN GANZ begins his second year coaching the wide receivers at Avila. Coach Ganz is a graduate of Baker University, Kan., where he enjoyed a stellar career as a wide receiver, earning all-conference honors.

BRAD GAINES begins his first year on the staff at Avila. Coach Gaines has enjoyed a successful career as a head high school coach. Coach Gaines was head coach at Orrick and Oak Grove. Coach Gaines will coach the running backs and coordinate the Eagles special teams.

NICK TEBBE was an all-conference pick at linebacker his senior season leading the Avila Eagles in tackles. Nick is in his second year of coaching the linebackers while completing his MS degree at Avila.

BRANDON WILKES following a career as fullback for the Avila Eagles, Coach Wilkes begins his first year coaching the tight ends. Coach Wilkes earned his undergraduate degree at Avila this past spring.

TANNER PURDUM begins his first year on the football staff at Avila. Tanner played college football at Baker (KS) University and will coach the quarterbacks and assist Coach Gaines with the special teams.



Avila Information

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The Avila Eagles play all their home football games at Rockhurst High School.

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Ron Slepitz, Ph.D.

Athletic Director

Mike Sharpe 816-501-3634

Football Coach

Bruce Young 816-501-2486

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Football SID

Dan Scheible 816-501-3715

University Enrollment

1,800

Mascot

Eagles

Colors

Purple & Gold

Stadium

Dasta Stadium
(Rockhurst H.S.)

Capacity

6,000

Surface

Artificial Turf

Affiliation

NAIA

Conference

Heart of America

Dasta Stadium



DASTA STADIUM is located on the campus of Rockhurst High School. The facility has state-of-the-art features which include a modern press box, ample public address system, field turf, expansive locker rooms, and has seating to accommodate 6,000 spectators. Dasta Stadium has been the home of the Avila Eagles for the past three seasons and offers a true collegiate atmosphere.

The Avila University athletic logo was recently redesigned and will represent all women's and men's sports programs at Avila University. Members of the media can contact the AU Office of Marketing & Communication for logos and usage guidelines at omc@avila.edu or 816-501-3753.